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Difficulties of Mining.

The majority of people who are not engaged in mining operations have but a vague conception of the many difficulties which attend the development of a mine or prospect, and especially when such properties are located some distance from railroad facilities, and where it is sometimes almost impossible to secure transportation advantages.

After a prospect is found, be it ever so good, it often requires a period of from two to five years before it can be placed on a regular paying basis, even though the owners are possessed of ample capital. And yet there are those, who, making an investment in mining propositions, expect material returns within six months or a year.

This class, even though its members may be of broad gauge and ready to go into their pockets to meet every requirement of mine development and equipment, are impatient for quick results, and for the simple reason that they do not understand conditions in the mining camps of the west; and this impatience is frequently very embarrassing to the mine management and to those who are striving to push operations economically and to the best possible advantage.

The writer has known of mining enterprises where the work seemed to drag interminably, and yet it has since transpired that the management and officials of such companies have struggled heroically with difficulties and hardships which would have completely discouraged and disheartened men of less sterner mold; men who would have proclaimed it an utter impossibility to overcome certain conditions existing in mining operations.

One of the greatest obstacles to successful mining during the past winter and spring has been the impassability of the roads leading to many of our mining camps and districts; camps and districts where work in mine development must be regularly maintained in order to comply with the terms of options and bonds, or to obey the instructions of eastern managers who, living in luxury, and ease in New York or Boston, imagine that to accomplish certain results the only thing required is for them to give the order.

The Indian said: "It is easy to see the white man now." It is also easy for an eastern manager to say "Do this, and do that;" to issue orders for ore shipments, for the equipment of mining property; but it is another thing, entirely, for the superintendent to comply with these orders, no matter how much he may desire to obey such commands to the letter.

During the past six months the matter of transportation to interior and isolated camps has been a serious one. It has often required three days to freight in a light load of supplies and provisions over a road thirty miles in length; and, even then, the teams have been stalled in the mud, wagons have been broken, horses injured, and the drivers have had to camp out overnight in snowstorm and rain, and have been compelled to endure almost every hardship imaginable in order to get into camp with the supplies consigned to their care. Such cases are not at all isolated, and the attendant expense seems enormous to those who, sitting by cheerful firesides, cannot understand why so much money is being spent in the development of a mere prospect, or why it is that ore shipments have not been made that were virtually promised by the management six months before; why it is that the railroads are several weeks behind in the delivery of mine supplies and machinery, or why communication with the mines has been interrupted.

The man who has not the patience of a Job should steer clear of mining in all its branches and phases. If he is engaged in the industry he must expect all manner of delay; all kinds of difficulties. And more, he must be determined to surmount them, but in his calculations he must consider that he will lose some time even when conditions seem to be the most favorable. —Salt Lake Mining Review.

The Pinal Consolidated Sold.

C. M. Schofield, superintendent of

the Newbury group, returned Monday from Boston. Before leaving for that city he obtained an option on the old Pinal Consolidated group of lead-silver mines, located on Belle Canyon 18 miles east of Florence. While in Boston he got a group of capitalists together and induced them to purchase the property and allow him to retain a good interest in them. They wired the first payment on the property before Mr. Schofield left Boston and he will start work at the mines at once. There is more than enough ore in sight on the property to pay the purchase price. Knowing the history of the property from its first discovery to date we believe Mr. Schofield has made a splendid buy.

There are three patented claims in the group, namely the Silver Belle, the Columbia and the Martinez. The better part of the adjoining unpatented ground is owned by Mr. Schofield and will become part of the group. This property was first opened up in 1881 by a San Francisco company the controlling spirits of which were Hank Donnelly, Sam Linkton and others of the old bonanza crowd of Virginia city. Aaron Mason, at that time superintendent of the famous old Silver King mine of this county, promoted the sale of the property and retained 100,000 shares of the stock. He was made general superintendent and Hon. A. J. Doran became his assistant. A wagon road, four miles in length and costing 20,000\$ was constructed between the mines and the Gila river at Buttes, 16 miles east of Florence. A forty-ton water jacket lead furnace was constructed at the river, the mines were opened and a regular output of lead-silver bullion begun. In the meantime Mason, Linkton, Donnelly, Taylor and others pooled their stock and listed the property on the San Francisco stock board. The terms of the pool bound the members of it not to sell any stock till it should reach 5\$ per share, then they were to unload together, run down the price and buy in again at the reduced price. In other words, they were to follow the old Nevada system of alternately bulling and bearing the stock. When the lead silver bullion from the smelter begun to roll into San Francisco, the stock went up rapidly and had reached 4.75\$ per share when Mason took a notion that he would give the old bonanza crowd a pointer or two in stock manipulation and he threw a block of his stock on the market at 2.50\$. This started a war at once and before Mason knew "where he was at" the old bonanza sharps had him down and out and loser in cash to the tune of about 40,000\$. During this stock melee the bonanza crowd got to fighting among themselves and got into litigation which resulted in one portion of the scrappers getting Dave Henderson appointed receiver. Dave was properly onto his job and inside of a few months he had sold the smelter, all the personal property and shut down the mines. The litigation became bitter and continued for years. When the litigation was finally terminated, nearly all the original stockholders had passed over the last divide and the property went into the hands of new owners.

Before the smelter was closed down it had turned out 101 carloads of lead silver bullion and had left nearly a third of the values of the ore in the slag. The editor of the Blade assorted the slag pile after it had been abandoned and shipped 19 carloads that averaged 42 ounces silver and 30 per cent lead to the ton. These figures will give some idea of the high grade character of the ore as it came from the mines. —Florence Blade.

Delamar Will Sell for Ten Millions.

E. H. Wilson and H. C. Ballinger, experts for F. Augustus Heinze, the Montana copper man, have been in camp examining the big Bluestone mine, the property of Captain DeLamar. Upon the report of Messrs. Wilson and Ballinger depend, more than likely, the sale of the property to Heinze for a figure in the neighborhood of 10,000,000\$. So far as can be learned Mr. Wilson's report will be favorable. He is very enthusiastic

about this entire district, and believes that it is going to make the biggest copper camp ever heard of.

The Bluestone mine consists of over twenty claims, and lies about three miles west of Yerington and within plain view of the town. It was formerly the property of H. E. Miller and associates, and was in 1901, operated to some extent by the Excelsior Company, a company made up of Butte people, with C. H. Batterman as president and general manager. A smelter was erected on the property and considerable of the best ore in the mine was worked. Copper was then low—getting down to 10 cents—and upon the death of Mr. Batterman the company dissolved and the property reverted to Mr. Miller and associates.

It is a well known fact that Captain DeLamar will sell anything he has in the way of mines if he gets his price. The report is current in Boston and Salt Lake that he has fixed the price for the Bluestone at 10,000,000\$. Mr. Heinze has the reputation of getting what he goes after. If he concludes that he wants the Bluestone after his experts report on it he will get it.

It will make little difference who has the property. It will be worked on a large scale within the next few months, and it is good to know that a property of this kind exists in the Yerington district. —Lyon County Times.

Big Power Plant to Operate in Clifton District.

If the plans of a strong Colorado company do not miscarry, electricity will soon supplant steam in the Clifton and Morenci district, and as a result the mine and smelter men will have a handsome surplus to their credit after the first year's operations, as it is estimated that under the present power system it costs 135\$ per year to provide every horse power employed in that great mining district, and it is estimated that from 5,000 to 10,000 power of energy are used annually.

The new company, which has several plants in successful operation in Colorado, Utah and Nevada, proposes to utilize the waters of the rivers in the district mentioned for the generation of electricity, which will be supplied to the mines and smelters at a price considerably lower than the cost of steam or gasoline power. For several months past the company has had expert engineers on the ground, as well as competent electricians, and they report that at least 3,500 horse power can be furnished the year round and probably 7,000 horse power the greater portion of the time. The principal mining and smelting companies at Clifton and Morenci have agreed to take the estimated average maximum of power, which would make the venture a success from the start. The company may succeed in generating even a greater amount of power by a system of chain of falls, using the power at each fall and driving all into one large cable. It is estimated that at least six 20-foot falls can be arranged.

Attorney Wiley Jones of this city is looking after the power company's local interests and in a general way promoting the enterprise. Mr. Jones is confident that the undertaking will prove both feasible and profitable, and intimates that the company may extend operations to this immediate vicinity should occasion demand. —Safford Journal.

Detroit's Salt Mine.

At a depth of 1000 feet at Detroit is a solid bed of salt 400 feet thick. The tapping of this great body of salt is one of Detroit's comparatively new industries, but it is now employing thousands of men who depend for their daily toil and daily wages on the manipulating of this salt.

The usual way of getting this salt to the surface is to sink a drive well, allow water to reach the salt bed and when the water has become saturated with the salt pump it up and put it through those chemical processes that separate it into two or three score of commercially profitable preparations.

But a number of enterprising capitalists, with C. A. Black at their head,

have conceived the idea that more can be made from the salt by mining it, and so they are sinking a 12x18-foot shaft down to this bed of salt, and expect by next year to have reached it. The shaft is now about 500 feet down. The first 90 feet was through soil, gravel, salt and clay, when a shale rock was struck; in the numerous fissures of which were large streams of sulphur and other mineral waters. Several times these have flooded the shaft, but by forcing clear cement into the crevices this difficulty has, with great expense been overcome.

Some 350 feet down a porous rock was found, through which water continually soaked, interfering with the blasting. To overcome this difficulty quite a space was dug out and then the walls were cemented. After that came solid limestone, which is expected to continue the balance of the 500 feet needed to reach the bed of salt.

There are three gangs of men employed on shifts of eight hours each. The shaft is divided into three compartments. In one fresh air is forced down to overcome the sulphurous fumes, which are carried up through another compartment. The middle space is occupied by the buckets bringing up the rock blasted away by the miners below.

The cost of this shaft will be about 250,000\$, but it is thought that if the mining of the salt is found feasible, the shaft will be worth 1,000,000\$. Rock salt has uses that the dissolved kind cannot fill and a profitable market is ready for every pound that the mine can furnish. —Boston Commercial.

Destructive Fire at Bisbee.

A Bisbee dispatch says: Originating in the explosion of a can of gasoline in starting a fire at 6:45 o'clock this morning, in the Colorado rooming house, owned by Mrs. Meyers, a terrible fire laid waste ten acres of dwellings and other buildings in nearly the heart of Bisbee.

The Colorado rooming house was situated in Brewery Gulch and a light wind spread the flames up Chihuahua Hill and to the south, away from the business section of the city. Had it not been for this breeze or had there been a wind in the other direction the whole business section would undoubtedly have been destroyed. Practically all the residences on Chihuahua hill were destroyed, as well as several large buildings on O. K. avenue. The fire was stopped at 11:30 by the use of dynamite on O. K. avenue just as it was about to destroy the Knights of Pythias building and the Review office. So imminent was the danger to the Review that all the linotypes and other machinery were taken down ready to be taken out. At the time the fire was stopped only a half hour water supply was left in the tank. Between 100 and 150 buildings were destroyed and over 200 families are without homes.

The total loss is estimated at 200,000\$. The largest losers are Mrs. Meyers, about 40,000\$ and no insurance; Medigovich and Noble, 12,000\$, partially insured; Star Williams, a tenement house, 10,000\$, partially insured; John J. Hill, two story lodging house, 8,000\$; A. Lukovick, 5,000\$; Geo. McGilroy, 8,000\$, insurance 1,600\$; H. Cramer, 10,000\$; home of James Wood, superintendent of the C. & A., destroyed. There is a large loss of personal property belonging to miners and laborers.

Chihuahua hill is beyond description. The houses were formerly built on small terraces which are now bare gashes in the side of the hill. The fire was very spectacular, eating its way up the hill from one clump of houses to another. The fire department was unable to handle the conflagration as there were no plugs in that section and not sufficient hose. It was only able to check the flames on O. K. avenue and leave the rest to burn.

Winkelman to Have Smelter.

A Phenix dispatch says: To smelt the custom ores of Pinal county, as well as to handle the immense product of its own mines, the London-Arizona Mining company, which recently paid

250,000\$ for the O'Carroll property, will probably begin construction work on a 1,000-ton smelting plant and reduction works, to be built on the Phenix & Eastern road, two miles this side of Winkelman and about five miles from its property.

S. H. Snider, president of the Two Queens company, who returned to Winkelman this morning, states that officials of the London-Arizona have recently informed him that ground will be broken shortly and the work on the foundations begun.

With a plant of 1,000 tons capacity every twenty-four hours, the London-Arizona will have the biggest custom smelter in the territory, outside of the Copper Queen and Calumet & Arizona plants at Douglas. The capacity of the Humboldt smelter is but 800 tons each 24 hours. Recent developments around Winkelman, which is the center of a district that lies partly in Pinal county and partly in Gila, lead the promoters of the London-Arizona property to believe that there will be plenty of ore developed within the next year to keep their 1000-ton plant in operation. From the London-Arizona property alone will come sufficient ore daily to keep a large sized smelter going. An aerial tram will carry the ore down from this property to the reduction works which will not be far from the banks of the Gila, where there is an abundant water supply.

In and around Winkelman half a dozen companies are operating or preparing to operate, which are certain to be ore producers and become steady feeders of the London-Arizona smelters. President Snider stated that within a few days a twenty-five horse power gasoline hoist will pass through Phenix on its way from Los Angeles to the Two Queens property. He is now working twenty men, but will add ten more within the next few days, using them in the construction of a road over which to take the gasoline hoist and to haul supplies from the Two Queens camp, a distance of about two miles.

Public Examiner Foster Makes Mining Deal.

Holding the property but two weeks and having made but a small payment down, Public Examiner W. C. Foster and S. J. Tribolet by the sale of the Silver Bell property in Pinal county to Boston capitalists for 90,000\$ have made one of the quickest mining turns in Arizona in some time.

Foster and Tribolet realizing on the Silver Bell, have broken all records for Pinal county, and probably for the majority of the counties in Arizona. They will net a clear profit of 45,000\$, and will receive money fast enough from the Boston people to meet their payments to the people from whom they bought. —Prospector.

Pumping Out Bonanza Mine.

Superintendent Black, of the Harqua Hala mine, spent several days in Prescott the first of the week. The mill has been closed down several days owing to some repairs being made on the engine. The shaft on the Golden Eagle claim is now down to the 400-foot level and cross-cutting will be commenced immediately to reach the ledge in the footwall which shows up so well on the 300-foot level. The Bonanza workings are now being pumped out and as soon as possible sinking will be commenced, if it is found practicable to continue on in the old workings. If not, a new shaft will be started from the surface. The water being pumped out of the Bonanza shaft is being used for milling purposes. —Wickenburg Miner.

Humboldt Smelter to Change Hands.

The Nevada-Utah company has practically decided to exercise its option for the purchase of the smelter of the Arizona Smelting company at Humboldt, near Prescott. The company has made a preliminary payment on the option, and while it might still allow the remainder to elapse, it is not believed that such action will be followed. The Arizona smelter is practically a new plant, having been placed in operation within the last two years. It has the reputation of being a money-maker. —Phenix Democrat.